



## **Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations**

**Date:** May 12, 2014

**To:** Cam Gordon, Chair of Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee

**Subject:** **Contract increase to existing City contract with Wilson Custom Tree C-36408 to address remaining tornado damaged trees in North Minneapolis.**

**Referral to:** John Quincy, Chair of Ways and Means Committee

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the increase of \$75,000 to the City's existing contract #C-36408 with Wilson Custom Tree. This is for the purpose of conducting a Tree Remediation Program to address tornado damaged trees identified by affected neighborhoods in North Minneapolis and approved by City staff in Neighborhood and Community Relations and Regulatory Services. Funding is available from the "Rebuilding Our Communities" funds.

**Previous Directives:**

On July 17, 2011, the City Council approved the creation of the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 over two years to be administered by the NCR Department. The 2011 General Appropriation Resolution was further amended to increase appropriations by \$300,000 for the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund, with remaining funds to be appropriated in future years. The approval committed \$60,000 of the first year's \$300,000 appropriation to existing neighborhood contracts.

On November 18, 2011, the City Council approved use of the remaining \$240,000 for an emergency rehab support program, as recommended by the neighborhood served by other housing programs, thus committing the full \$300,000 of the first year appropriation.

On March 8, 2012, The City Council approved an additional \$196,258.72 for 2012, and up to \$103,741.28 of 2013 interest earnings on the existing fund balance of fund 01SNR to fully fund the original request for \$600,000 for the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund.

On October 26, 2013 the City Council approved Rebuilding Our Communities Fund: Receive & File report; and Direct Neighborhood and Community Relations staff as follows: Reserve \$75,000 for damaged tree/stump removal work on private property and \$25,000 each for the Willard Hay, Jordan, Folwell, Webber-Camden and

McKinley neighborhoods to dedicate staff time or loan programs to deal with properties that have remaining tornado damage.

### Department Information:

Prepared by: Michelle Chavez, Neighborhood and Community Relations  
Lee Larson, Regulatory Services

Approved by: David Rubedor, Director Neighborhood and Community Relations  
Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Director Regulatory Services

Presenters in Committee: Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Manager

### Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval N/A
Civil Rights Approval	Approval N/A
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval N/A

### Financial Impact

- The funding for the Tree Remediation Program (\$75,000) is available through NCR's Rebuilding Our Communities fund.
- Action is within the Business Plan
- Request provided to the Finance Department
- Other financial impact – Increase in contract dollar amount

### Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification – All affected neighborhoods have been notified and are working in collaboration on this project.
- City Goals - **A City that works:** City government runs well and connects to the community it serves  
**Great Places:** Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected
- Comprehensive Plan – N/A
- Zoning Code – N/A

**Supporting Information** – The City Council established the “Rebuilding our Communities” (ROC) fund in response to the tornado that hit north Minneapolis on May 22, 2011. These funds were to build the capacity for a north Minneapolis community-led, mid and long-term recovery and rebuilding process. The fund builds upon existing assets and supports collaboration between neighborhood groups and the City.

The tornado went through one of our most diverse and economically challenged areas of the city. The recovery effort and the rebuilding process require involvement and inclusion of a diverse spectrum of stakeholders.

Listed below are past activities supported by the ROC fund:

1. Rehab Support Program Emergency Relief Fund: \$240,000 of ROC funds were dedicated to emergency housing repairs. It became apparent that many north Minneapolis homeowners were falling through gaps in existing relief programs. NCR worked with CPED staff to develop the Emergency Relief Fund, managed by the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC) for repair work managed by Urban Homeworks, Habitat for Humanity, and others. These funds are currently expended.

2. Neighborhood Organization Support: \$60,000 of the original \$300,000 was contracted to the six neighborhood organizations in the area impacted by the May 22 tornado. The

Funding supported: a multi-neighborhood cleanup effort involving more than 400 volunteers over the weekends of June 18 and June 25, 2011, outreach, door knocking, increased hours at neighborhoods, extended services for residents, north-side recovery team efforts and more.

3. Remaining Remediation for Housing and Trees: Allocate \$25,000 to each neighborhood to perform outreach to remaining properties that need remediation and provide program support as needed.

**Tree Remediation Program:** As part of the Rebuilding our Communities Fund, the Minneapolis City Council instructed the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department to set aside \$75,000 towards tornado impacted tree remediation. The NCR department is working with affected neighborhood groups to engage affected property owners. Partners in the project include – NCR, Regulatory Services, Wilson Custom Tree, and the following neighborhoods: Willard Hay, Jordan, Folwell, Webber-Camden and McKinley.

The neighborhood organizations will work with owners to get legal waivers, take photographs of trees needing remediation and obtain written consent for the City's tree contractor to perform work on their property. The waivers will only be accepted by an established date and each waiver may be used for services up to \$1,500 per property. This program will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until all of the funds have been utilized or all existing damaged trees have been remediated.

Once the established date has passed, and all approved remediation is complete, any remaining funds may be used for requests received after the established date or for tree remediation requests exceeding \$1,500 per property up to a maximum of \$3,000 per property. A lottery system will be used to provide a fair method of determining where the funds will be used.